

In the 1970s and 80s, Outboard Marine Corporation dumped Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) straight into Waukegan Harbor. In the early 1990s, the EPA began a program that eliminated much of the contamination, but a significant and dangerous amount remains.

In addition to fish and wildlife degradation concerns, a polluted harbor prevents sorely needed redevelopment in the city. One study estimates that a clean harbor will help bring more than \$800 million in new development to northern Illinois.

I am very pleased to say that after many years of work, the City of Waukegan approved a plan last night that will result in a more than \$35 million for cleaning up the harbor. Approximately \$23 million will come from the federal government.

Cleaning the harbor has been a goal of mine since I was first elected to Congress in 2000. I helped pass the Great Lakes Legacy Act in 2002 which will provide the federal funds to Waukegan for the clean-up effort. This year, we successfully increased the funding of the Act by \$2 million, providing even more resources for Great Lakes restoration efforts.

I attended the City Council meeting last night to thank the elected officials of Waukegan for making the goal of a clean harbor a reality. It will still take several years before the harbor is fully restored, but we are well on our way to a cleaner and more prosperous future for Waukegan.



Congressman Kirk and the Waukegan City Council celebrate the final agreement to clean up the Chicago River.